

**Town of Barkhamsted
Incorporated 1779**

**Testimony of Donald S. Stein
First Selectman, Town of Barkhamsted
Before the Government Administration and Elections Committee
of the Connecticut General Assembly
March 21, 2012**

Good afternoon Senator Slossberg, Representative Morin, Senator McLachlan, Representative Hwang and members of the Committee. My name is Donald Stein and I'm the First Selectman of the Town of Barkhamsted. I'm testifying today to support **H.B. No. 5519 (RAISED), AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN PARCELS OF STATE LAND.**

Section 11 of the referenced act amends Section 9 of Special Act 08-8, which granted a parcel of State land to the Regional Refuse Disposal District Number One. This original grant from the State, part of an unused railroad right-of-way, included a restriction on the use of the parcel, limiting it to economic development, and also preventing the district from any other action related to the land, under the penalty of reversion to the State.

This restriction prevents the District and the town from being able to exchange a small piece of the parcel with an abutting neighbor to allow the drilling of a well which will provide drinking water to the District and Town of Barkhamsted facilities. This well is required by the Farmington Valley Health District as a condition for allowing the Town to fully use its newly constructed highway garage. The exchange consists of a very small piece of land and includes no financial compensation.

Therefore, this modification is necessary to allowing the RRDD and its member towns, Barkhamsted, New Hartford and Winsted, to use the land to the benefit of the District and its member towns. The District continues to be committed to using the parcel consistent with its charter and consistent with the public interest.

Thank you for your consideration.